**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A freestanding candle, in an operable position having a wick supported by a fuel body and extending upwardly from a top surface of the fuel body, the candle comprising:

(a) a flame-resistant sheet joined to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch from the longitudinal axis of the wick; and

(b) an upright wick support attached to the sheet and holding the lower end of the wick, the attached support forming a liquid fuel flow barrier separating the lower end of the wick from the fuel body

wherein the candle is not contained within a container whereby the sheet prevents the leakage of melted candle wax through the bottom of the candle onto a candle support surface.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1 , wherein the wick support is sealingly bonded to the sheet.

4. (original) The candle of claim 3, wherein the sheet has an adhesive backing that bonds to the wick support and the bottom surface of the fuel body.

5. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the flow barrier is a sealant disposed at least across an opening to a bore extending through the wick support.

6. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is formed *in situ* unitarily with the wick.

7. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent disposed on a surface of the lower end of the wick.

8. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent impregnating the lower end of the wick.

9. (original) The candle of claim 7 or 8, wherein the wick support is bonded to the sheet by the flame-resistant agent.

10. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is a block of solid, flame-resistant material.

11. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support extends above the sheet an amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire.

12. (original) The candle of claim 11, wherein the amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire is at least about one-half inch.

13. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet extends substantially to an outer peripheral surface of the fuel body.

14. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a peripheral rim having a thickness greater than the sheet.

15. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a flange at an outer boundary.

16. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is imbedded within the fuel body.

17. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is adhered to the bottom surface of the fuel body.

18. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is corrugated.

19. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is dome-shaped.

20. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel body has multiple wicks.

21. (original) The candle of claim 20, wherein each flame-resistant sheet in proximity to each wick extends at least one inch from the longitudinal axis of each wick.

22. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is crimped.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A fire hazard reducing improvement to a freestanding candle which is unsupported in a container, the candle having a width of at least two inches and a wick supported by a fuel body, the wick, in an operable position of the candle, extending along a longitudinal axis through the fuel body, from near a lower end surface of the fuel body to a top surface of the fuel body from which the wick extends, wherein the improvement comprises:

a flame-resistant sheet bonded to the lower surface of the fuel body and extending outwardly from said longitudinal axis at least substantially one inch from the longitudinal axis of the wick for preventing molten fuel body from flowing through the bottom of the candle.

25. (new) A method for more safely burning a freestanding candle fuel body that is not supported in a surrounding container, the method comprising:

(a) bonding a flame-resistant sheet to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch from the longitudinal axis of the wick; and

(b) burning the fuel body on a support surface which does not have a container surrounding the fuel body.

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